



ad astra episode 031

CHAPTER 31



BATTLE OF CANNAE











BUT AT LEAST WITH THIS, SCIPIO AND THE OTHERS WILL BE FAR AWAY FROM THE FIERCEST FIGHTING...

EVEN WITH THOSE REINFORCEMENTS, THEY MOST LIKELY WON'T BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE MUCH,

ROME'S CAVALRY ARE THE WEAKEST IN THE WHOLE MEDITERRANEAN...

AND THE FIGHTING AROUND THE CENTRAL BREAKTHROUGH POINT IS PROBABLY HELL ON EARTH...

VICTORY OR DEFEAT ALL COMES DOWN TO THE INFANTRY BATTLE.

ROME'S FUTURE HOPE TO BE SEVERED AT A PLACE LIKE THIS...

I CANNOT ALLOW

ROMAN ARMY  
LEFT WING  
CAVALRY BATTLE





FOOLS!  
YOU  
MUST STAY  
BEHIND AND  
ACT AS A  
DISTRACTION  
FOR THE  
GAULS!

W-WHAT,  
SIR!

WE'RE  
COMING  
TOO!

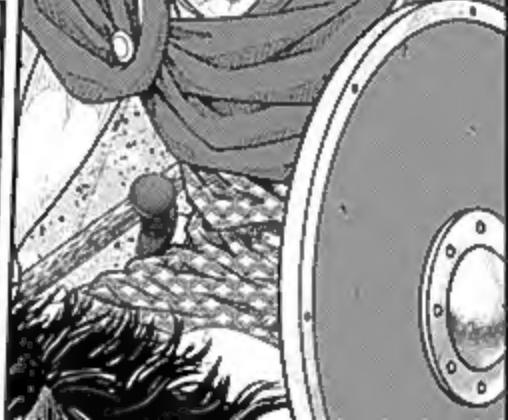
GOOD,  
GOOD!  
THAT'S  
IT!

GYAH

LOOK,  
SCIPIO!

IS THE  
DUTY OF A  
COMMON  
SOLDIER

TO GIVE  
UP ONE'S  
LIFE FOR  
THEIR  
SUPERIOR



VÁRRO!



ROMAN ARMY  
CENTRAL INFANTRY  
BATTLE





THE ENEMY SOLDIERS HAVE STARTED TO FOCUS ON THE CENTRE.

THEY HOPE TO USE THEIR MOMENTUM TO PUSH RIGHT THROUGH OUR RANKS IN THE MIDDLE.

THOUGH CONVENTIONAL, IT IS ALSO THE BEST POSSIBLE MOVE THEY COULD MAKE...  
IT WOULD SEEM HANNIBAL IS PROVEN CORRECT YET AGAIN, THE ROMANS ARE NOT STAFFED COMPLETELY BY BUFFOONS...



...REGARDLESS  
OF HOW MUCH  
THEY STRUGGLE,  
THERE WAS NEVER  
ANY CHANCE OF  
THE ROMANS  
WINNING ON THE  
CAVALRY FRONT.

AND  
SURELY  
THIS IS  
SOMETHING  
THEY  
THEMSELVES  
WERE AWARE  
OF AS  
WELL

HENCE.  
THEIR ONLY  
HOPE WAS  
TO CUT OUR  
FORCES DOWN  
THE MIDDLE  
AND SEPARATE  
US INTO TWO  
BODIES.



LIKE WATER  
DRIPPING ALONG AN  
UNHELD THREAD...

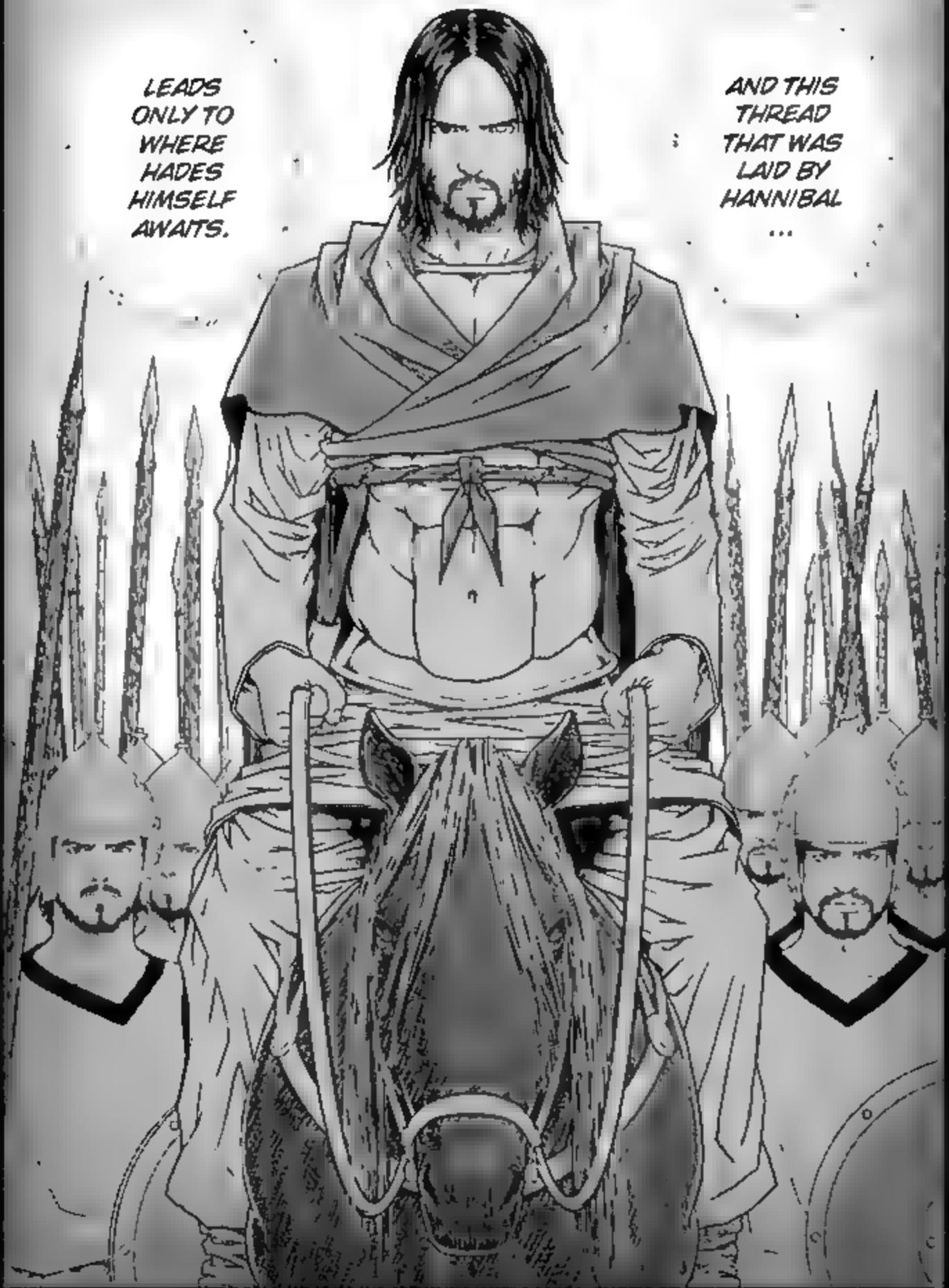
THIS  
STRATEGY  
OF THEIRS  
WAS NOT  
DEvised BY  
THEIR OWN  
MINDS.

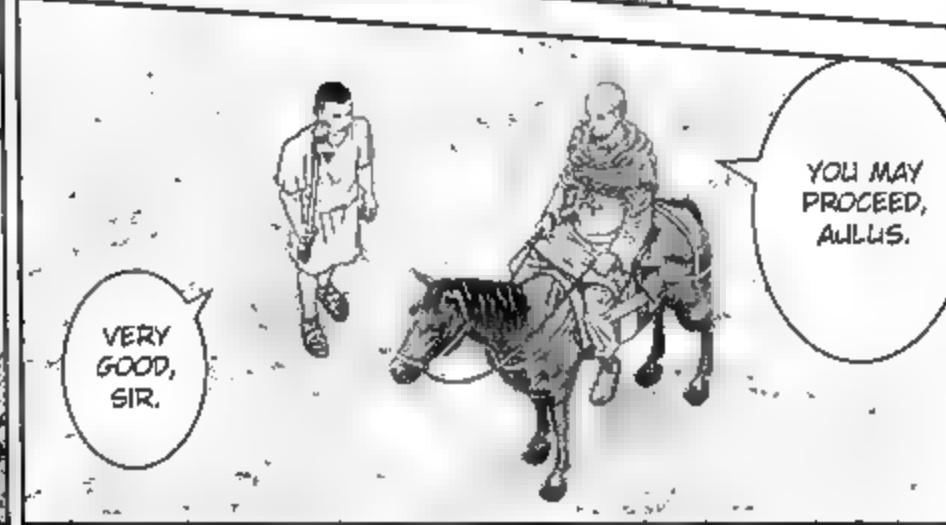
THE PATH  
THEY HAVE  
BEEN LED  
DOWN HAD  
ALREADY  
BEEN SET.

BUT WHAT  
THE ROMANS  
DO NOT  
KNOW IS...

LEADS  
ONLY TO  
WHERE  
HADES  
HIMSELF  
AWAITS.

AND THIS  
THREAD  
THAT WAS  
LAID BY  
HANNIBAL







THE  
TIME  
HAS  
COME.

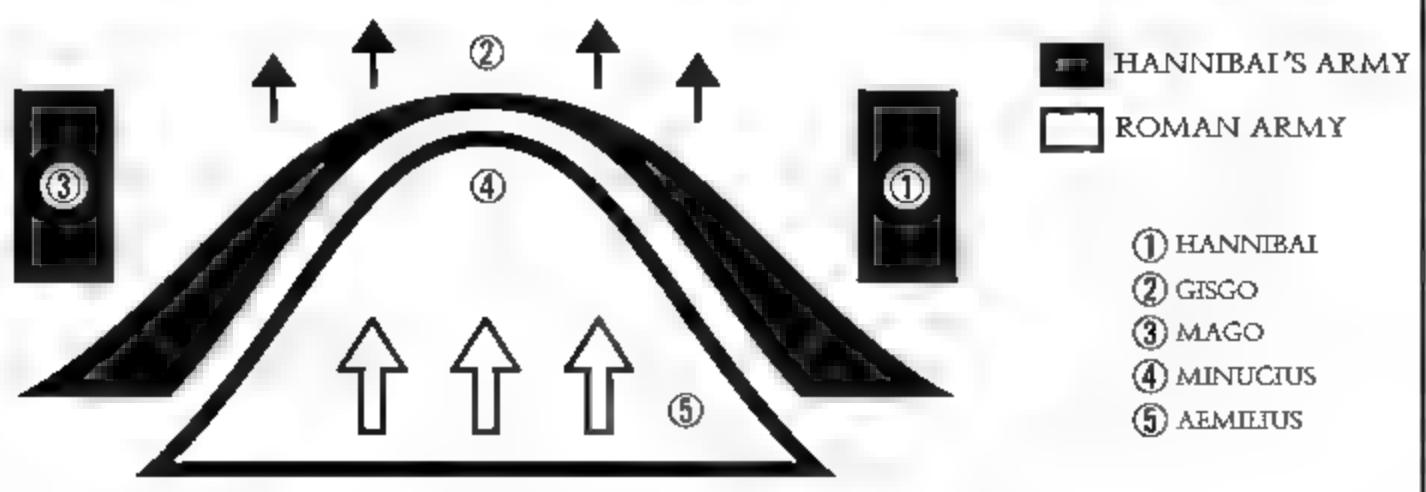
IT  
WOULD  
APPEAR  
THAT...





FORWARD,  
MY  
COMRADES!  
THE PATH  
TO VICTORY  
HAS  
OPENED!

AFTER  
THEM!  
GIVE  
THEM NO  
QUARTER!



THEIR FORMATION TOOK ON A U-SHAPE AS THEY PACKED CLOSELY TOGETHER AND DIVED INTO THE ENEMY'S LINES...

AS THE ROMAN INFANTRY CHARGED DOWN THE FIELD, EYES FIXED SOLELY ON THE BACKS OF THEIR FLEEING ENEMIES.

ALL INFANTRY ON THE WINGS, CHARGE!

UNINTENTIONALLY LEAVING THEIR VULNERABLE FLANKS FULLY EXPOSED TO HANNIBAL'S BLADES.



A-A  
FLANK  
ATTACK  
!?

...WHAA!?

JUST WHAT  
WOULD BE  
THE OUTCOME  
OF CLASHING  
WITH THESE  
HARDENED  
VETERANS?.

NOT ONLY  
THAT, THE  
MEN WHO  
HAD SPENT  
THE BATTLE  
THUS FAR  
LYING IN  
WAIT AND  
CONSERVING  
THEIR  
STRENGTH

WERE THE  
POWERFUL  
CREAM OF  
THE CROP OF  
HANNIBAL'S  
FORCES  
MEN WHO  
HAD SURVIVED  
THE CROSSING  
OF THE ALPS



THE RESULTS  
WOULD BE  
EXCEEDINGLY  
OBVIOUS.  
TO SAY THE  
LEAST.

I DIDN'T  
KNOW HE  
HAD THAT  
MANY  
SCARS...

MONTHS BEFORE THE  
DECISIVE BATTLE OF CANNAE

Intermission

WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY!?

SIR  
HAMILCAR!

HE WAS  
TRYING TO  
SAVE THE  
DROWNING  
SOLDIERS,  
BUT THE  
CURRENT WAS...

ER...  
WELL,  
YES...

TEN  
YEARS  
AGO IN  
IBERIA,

WHEN  
YOUR FATHER,  
HAMILCAR,  
DROWNED IN  
THE RIVER.



AYE, AND  
THERE'S  
ALSO HIS  
LEFT EYE  
TOO...

...BUT  
NOW,

WITH ALL  
THOSE SCARS  
THAT HAVE  
BEEN ETCHED  
ONTO HIS  
BODY,  
HE HAS  
FULLY  
INHERITED  
YOUR  
FATHER'S  
TEACHINGS.

SO  
THAT'S  
WHY YOU  
WENT  
INTO...

A...  
FEINT?

HM?...

GOOD,  
THESE WATER  
LEVELS ARE  
HIGH ENOUGH  
TO USE AS A  
FEINT.

NOW  
TO MAKE  
OUR WAY  
DOWN-  
STREAM.

THE  
STAGE  
IS SET.

TO WHERE  
IT WILL ALL  
BE DECIDED...  
CANNAE.

【初出】ウルトラジャンプ 2013年6月号～11月号掲載分収録

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To be continued....